

WE CLAIM:

1. A binding mechanism for generating bound documents, the mechanism comprising:

5 a support structure that defines a floor onto which sheets to be bound are conveyed and a wall that extends from the floor to define a stop for the sheets that are fed onto the floor, each sheet having a strip of adhesive proximate a leading edge of the sheet; and

at least one binding member that is pivotally mounted with respect to the
10 wall and is pivotal between an operative position in which the, or each, binding member bears against a leading portion of an uppermost sheet positioned on the floor and an inoperative position in which the, or each binding member is displaced from said uppermost sheet so that a subsequent sheet can be positioned in the support structure.

15 2. A binding mechanism as claimed in claim 1, in which a position of the floor relative to the wall is adjustable to accommodate an increasing height of a stack of sheets fed into the support structure.

20 3. A binding mechanism as claimed in claim 2, in which the floor is configured to be driven away from the, or each, binding member as the sheets are bound together.

4. A binding mechanism as claimed in claim 1, which includes a shaft and
25 a number of binding members that are rotatably mounted on the shaft, the wall defining a plurality of slots, each binding member passing through a respective slot.

5. A binding mechanism as claimed in claim 4, in which each binding
30 member is in the form of a semicircular disc, such that each disc defines a diametric bearing surface which is displaceable between the operative and inoperative positions as the shaft is rotated.

6. A binding mechanism as claimed in claim 1, which includes a vibrating mechanism that is engageable with the support structure to facilitate alignment of the sheets against the wall by vibrating the support structure.